

REMARKS**I. Rejections Under 35 USC §102**

Claims 39 –56 are rejected under 35 USC §102 (b) as being unpatentable by Webster, Jr. (US 5,626,136).

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 39-56. Claims 39-56 define a catheter for ablation and/or mapping of tissue including a first deflection member extending to a first junction and deflecting a distal segment of a distal section, and a second deflection member extending to a second junction and deflecting a proximal segment of the distal section; the first junction coupling the distal segment to an intermediate segment of the distal section and the second junction coupling the intermediate segment to the proximal segment.

While Webster Jr. teaches an electrode catheter including a flexible catheter body and a catheter tip portion including a first section and a second section and forming a generally circular curve (col. 3, line 30 – col. 4, line 8), Webster Jr. does not teach a catheter including two deflection members, one affecting deflection of a distal segment of a distal section and the other affecting deflection of a proximal segment of a distal section, as is claimed in the present application. Rather, Webster Jr. teaches a single puller wire attached to the tip portion wherein movement of the puller wire results in a tightening of a compound curve of the tip portion (col. 5, lines 30-65). Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claims 39-56.

II. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited so that invention claimed therein may pass to timely issuance as U.S. Letters Patent.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned agent to attend to these matters.

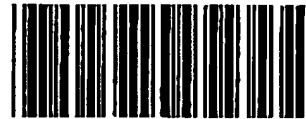
Respectfully submitted,

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By their agent,

Date:

June 2, 2003

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